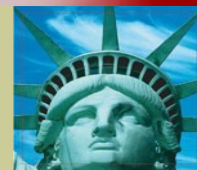


January 2010

Around The Corner

The U.S. Consulate General in Amsterdam's Newsletter



Welcome Wardens!

On January 14, 2010, a group of volunteers joined ACS Chief Dan King and Consulate staff in an orientation for new Warden volunteers. The session included a review of warden functions, a behind-the-scenes tour of Consulate operations, and lunch. Members of the group will serve on a voluntary basis to assist the Consulate General with providing services for U.S. citizens residing in the Netherlands. Typical duties include hosting or organizing Consulate outreach events, being a point of contact within the community, and serving as a local source of information for upcoming events. The Warden system also provides a reliable way to reach U.S. citizens in the event of an emergency, disaster or threat, and to distribute other information of interest to the private U.S. community (changes in section work hours and procedures, voting information, physicians list, etc.).

The U.S. Consulate General welcomes these new volunteers and looks forward to working with them in the coming year

-Tara Cummins



Warden Volunteers learn about American Citizen Services.

**The U.S. Consulate General
will be closed on February
15, 2010, in observance of
President's Day.**



Register with ESTA for Trouble Free Travel!

On the one-year anniversary of implementing the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA), the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Customs and Border Protection, (CBP) reminds U.S.-bound travelers from Visa Waiver Program (VWP) countries of the ESTA requirement.

ESTA is an electronic travel authorization that all citizens of VWP countries must obtain prior to boarding a carrier to travel by air or sea to the United States under the VWP. ESTA has been mandatory since Jan. 12, 2009 for all nationals of VWP countries traveling to the U.S. under the VWP. The requirement does not affect U.S. citizens returning from overseas or citizens of VWP countries traveling on a valid U.S. visa.

Beginning January 20, If you do not have a travel authorization via ESTA in advance of your next visit to the United States under the Visa Waiver Program, you may be:

- Denied boarding by the air or sea carrier;
- Delayed upon your arrival and referred to U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) secondary inspection;
- Required to submit an application and pay the fee associated to waive the requirement to enter the United States; or
- **Refused admission into the United States and returned on the next available flight or vessel.**

Apply for your travel authorization via ESTA now at <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov>.

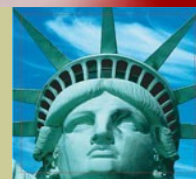
-U.S. Customs and Border Protection



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U.S. High School Delegation to The Hague International Model United Nations Conference Visits U.S. Consulate General.

A regional student delegation from Western New York, comprised of 16 high school students from schools in central and Western New York, and two teachers as travel advisors, will be visiting the U.S. Consulate General Amsterdam as part of their visit to the Netherlands. They will be met by Consular Section Chief, Stuart Wilson, receive a tour of the Consulate building, and learn about the work that the State department does at its posts abroad.

The students will be attending The Hague International Model United Nations conference on January 24-29, 2010. It is coordinated by Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES (Board of Cooperative Educational Services) in Spencerport, New York. This international MUN conference, with over 4,000 student delegates, is very prestigious. The group is one of only 6 delegations invited from the United States and is one of only two public schools being represented. The students were selected last May, and have been preparing both for the conference and for international travel since September.

In addition to attending the conference, the group visits Amsterdam for educational purposes, visiting significant sites like the U.S. Consulate General, the Rijksmuseum, the Anne Frank House, and the Van Gogh Museum. Following the conference, on January 30, the group will also be visiting Prague for 3 more days of educational touring before they return to the US.

-Charmy Perry

The U.S. Consulate General and See America at Vakantiebeurs 2010.



Visitors attend Vakantiebeurs 2010, held at the Utrecht Jaarbeurs.

Your vacation begins with the Vakantiebeurs! Located at the Utrecht Jaarbeurs, it was THE event to find all of the information you need to choose the perfect vacation destination. This year The U.S. Consulate General participated alongside representatives from See America. We offered valuable visa and travel information to help visitors get the most out of this annual information fair.

Vakantiebeurs 2010 took place January 13-17, and will be offered again around the same time next year. It presented insight into customized vacations for everyone and was the ideal place to speak directly with representatives, often locals

themselves, about unique travel opportunities. With the combination of travel information from the U.S. Consulate General and vacation information from See America, Vakantiebeurs 2010 was undoubtedly a great success!

-Tara Cummins



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Emigration Fair 2010

Where talent meets opportunity!

Join the U.S. Consulate general at Emigration Fair 2010! Now in its 14th year, Europe's largest and best-attended event for emigrants leaving the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany, Emigration Fair 2010, will take place Saturday, February 13, and Sunday 14, at the Expo Houten Exhibition Centre in Houten - Utrecht.

In a world of increasing globalization, where borders and time zones fade, emigration is common but can also be highly problematic. Emigrate 2010 meets the billowing demand for a complete spectrum of information crucial to ensuring successful relocation and enculturation around the globe, and the U.S. Consulate General will be there to answer all of your emigration questions. More than 170 market leaders will provide a vast array of services to the emigrant community, including international business and human resource professionals that provide key connections to worldwide career and business immigration opportunities.

Lectures and workshops, at no additional cost to Fair visitors, will be presented over the entire duration of the Fair and will cover a wide range of topics addressing cross-cultural, financial, career, family, health, networking and business strategies, and human resource management related to emigrant issues. A vast array of publications aimed at those planning to emigrate, will also be available.

For more information visit our website:
<http://amsterdam.usconsulate.gov>.

-Emigration Fair Press Release

F.A.Q: I want to apply for passports for my children. Do I have to bring them to the Consulate General for their applications?

Yes, effective February 1, 2008, all children under 16 must apply in person with both parents present, or the appearing parent must present a notarized consent from the non-appearing parent — Also, adolescents age 16 and above, or young adults over 18 who cannot submit a 10-year validity passport for renewal, must appear in person — for further instructions see our section on *Passports for Minors* and *Passports for Adolescents Age 16+* on our website:

<http://amsterdam.usconsulate.gov>.

-Frank de Koning

Turkish Airlines Flight 1951 Remembered.

On February 25, 2009, Turkish Airlines flight 1951 crashed in a field near Zwanenburg, not far from the Polderbaan airstrip at Schipol Airport. Nine people, four American and five Turkish citizens, perished in this tragic accident. Among the deceased was the entire cockpit crew.

The victims of the so-called, "Poldercrash" will be honored in the city of Haarlemmermeer on February 25, 2010. Together with a Turkish representative and Mayor Theo Weterings, U.S. Consul General Julie Ruterbories will be speaking at the crash site. After the commemoration a monument in memory of those who lost their lives will be unveiled.

-Annemarie Groen